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Syndicated loan refinancing and a €500m Sustainability-Linked Euro PP bond issue

NGE consolidates its investment capacity with Sustainability-linked loan and bonds

[gender diversity + accident prevention + GHG]

NGE, Top 4 construction company in France, announces a successful refinancing package of two backto-back transactions directly linked to environmental social and governance (ESG) performance indicators, including the first ever Sustainability-Linked Euro PP bonds issued in France, listed on a regulated market:

- Refinancing of the 6-year €350 million syndicated loan by all its existing banks, as well as new partners.
- Issuance of a Euronext-listed €150 million Sustainability-linked Euro PP SLB with maturity dates of 2028 and 2029.

These transactions provide NGE with the financial resources needed to achieve the ambitions set out in its 2021-2025 business plan, at the same time as extending the maturity of its debt to 2029. They follow a reorganisation of the Group shareholding structure since the entry of Montefiore as an equity investor.

The following indicators apply to both the new bank loan agreement and the bond issue:

- The number of women in worksite management position.
- A reduction in the accident frequency rate.
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions.

If these three targets are not met, NGE will not only be subject to penalties, but will also make donations to non-profit organisations working on the same issues as those addressed by these indicators. NGE performance in respect of each indicator will be published and audited by an independent third party as part of the annual non-financial performance statement review.

Antoine Metzger, Chairman of NGE: "Achieving yet another "first" in France, the New Generations of Entrepreneurs demonstrate once again their creative, innately bold and adventurous spirit. These new forms of borrowing have their roots in the special attachment our employees have to our corporate culture, and their commitment to succeeding in the challenges of the future. Almost a third of our debt is now directly linked to our collective efforts to achieve these major societal ambitions".

Jean-Sébastien Leoni, Executive Vice President Finance and CSR at NGE: "NGE is a company with a substantial reputation, which means that the close working relationship we have with our long-term banking partners allows us to succeed in transactions like these, and to attract high-profile investors. Given our healthy level of debt and the control we have over our borrowings, we saw it as important to take a step forward at this time by adopting the new trend towards indexing our borrowings against our CSR performance. These transactions add an extra level of importance to our achievement of the targets we have set, which can only be a positive thing".

LCL, Natixis and Société Générale acted as Coordinators and CSR Coordinators for the bank finance packages, and LCL and Société Générale also acted as Lead Managers and CSR Coordinators for the Euro PP bond issue. NGE was advised by CMS Francis Lefevre and Redbridge Debt & Treasury Advisory, and the Coordinators & Lead Managers by De Pardieu Brocas Mafféi.